



**MITSUBISHI FUSO**  
TRUCK OF AMERICA, Inc.

2015 Center Square Road  
Logan Twp., NJ 08085  
(856) 467-4500  
(856) 467-4695 Fax

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2004 DEC -3 P 11: 24

DEFECTS  
DIVISION

04V-571  
(5 pages)

October 8, 2004

Jonathan D. White, Chief, Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division  
Office of Defects Investigation, Safety Assurance  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Safety Recall Notification on the Parking Brake Cable;**  
**Model Years: 1996 – 2001; Models: FE639, FE649, FE640**

Dear Mr. White:

Pursuant to 49 CFR, Part 573, Mitsubishi Fuso Truck of America, Inc. (MFTA) herewith files a defect and noncompliance information report concerning the parking brake cable on certain 1996 through 2001 model year FE639, FE649 and FE640 Mitsubishi Fuso trucks for all states. The contents of this report are arranged to follow the sequence set forth in Section 573.5.

The Dealer Recall Information Bulletin and a sample of the letter that will be sent to each Mitsubishi Fuso truck owner affected by this recall will be forwarded to you upon completion.

Sincerely,

William P. Mohr  
Director, Service Operations.  
Mitsubishi Fuso Truck of America, Inc.  
Phone: (856) 467-3917 Fax: (856) 467-4665

Enclosure: As stated

Defect and Noncompliance Information Report

1. The manufacturer's name:

Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corporation (MFTBC), Japan

2. Identification of the vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment potentially containing the defect or noncompliance:

<b>Models</b>	<b>Model Year Range</b>
FE639	1996-2001
FE649	1996-2001
FE640	2001

- a) Inclusive dates of manufacture:

<b>Models</b>	<b>Vehicle Production</b>
FE639	February 21, 1995 through March 29, 2001
FE649	February 21, 1995 through February 22, 2001
FE640	June 15, 2000 through March 29, 2001

- b) GVWR or class of truck:

<b>Models</b>	<b>GVWR</b>	<b>Class</b>
FE639	11,600 lbs.	3
	13,500 lbs.	3
FE649	14,500 lbs.	4
FE640	14,500 lbs.	4

- c) Names of the components:

Parking brake cable

3. The total number of vehicles or items of equipment potentially containing the defect or noncompliance, and where available, the number of vehicles or items of equipment in each group identified pursuant to paragraph (c) (2) of the section:

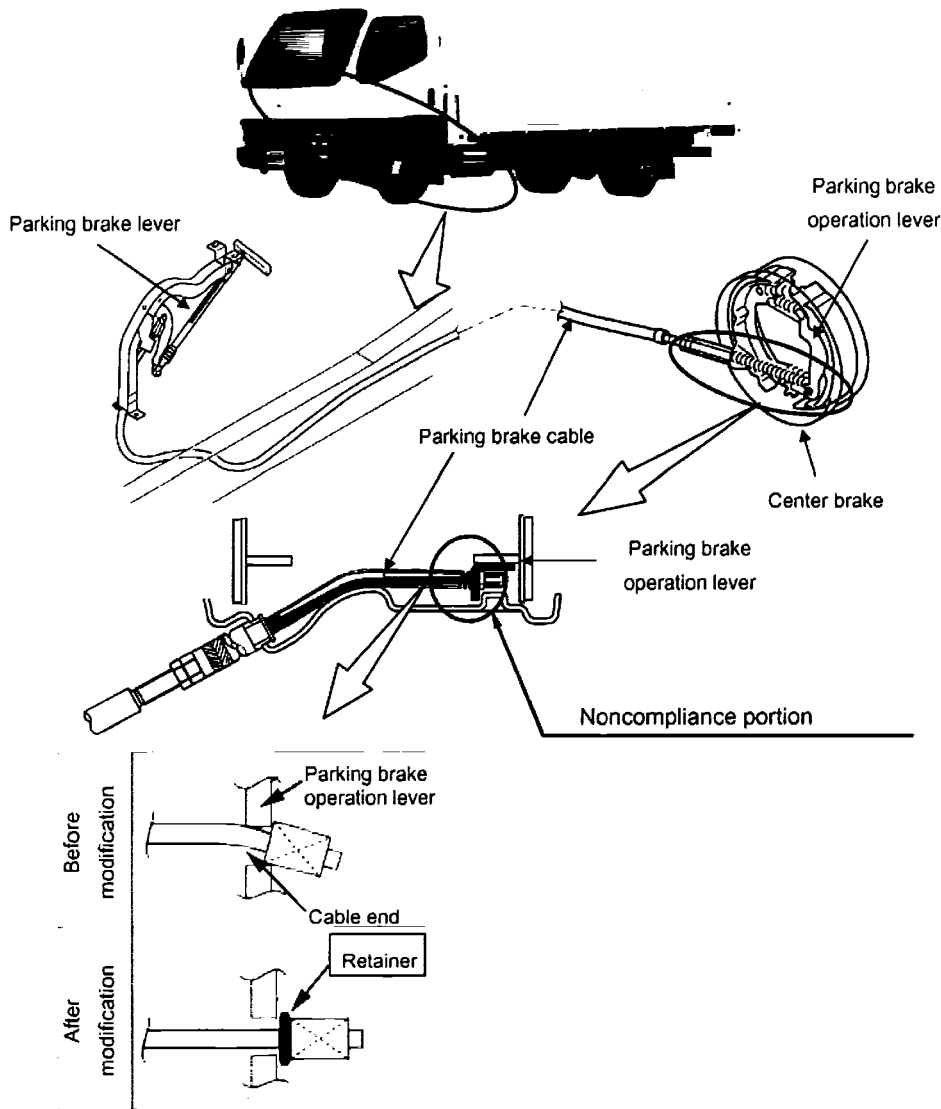
<b>Models</b>	<b># of Vehicles – U.S.</b>	<b># of Vehicles – Canada</b>	
96-01 FE639	10,672	25	
96-01 FE649	6,365	20	
01 FE640	1,057	7	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,094</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>18,146</b>

4. The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment specified pursuant to paragraph (c) (2) of the section estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

Unknown

5. A description of the defect or noncompliance, including both a brief summary and a detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of the nature and physical location (if applicable) of the defect or noncompliance:

The cable end of the parking brake cable, where it attaches to the parking brake lever, is designed improperly. Repeated normal parking brake operation may cause the cable end to become improperly seated in the parking brake lever groove. In this condition, the parking brake cable may bend and/or break due to fatigue. In the worst case, the parking brake may become inoperative.



 This mark shows parts to be added.

6. In the case of defect, a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information, with their date of receipt:

On October 5, 2004, MFTBC notified MFTA that they had determined that a defect related to motor vehicle safety existed and instructed MFTA to perform a safety recall.

After deliberate study of failed sample parts, MFTBC determined that the cause of failure was an improperly designed parking brake cable end. Repeated normal parking brake operation may cause the cable end to improperly seat in the parking brake lever groove. In this condition, the parking brake cable may bend and/or break due to fatigue. In the worst case, the parking brake may become inoperative.

Between January 19, 1996 and February 11, 2002, MFTA received twenty four (24) Warranty Service Claims (WSC) and zero (0) Product Quality Reports (PQR) relating to affected vehicles. The summary report of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information MFTA has received, with their date of receipt is attached. Copies of the WSC's and PQR's are available upon request. MFTA has not received any notice of accident or injury relating to the subject components.

7. In the case of noncompliance, the test results or other data on the basis of which the manufacturer determined the existence of the noncompliance:

Not applicable.

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance:

Inspect the parking brake cable for bending or damage at the cable end. Install a modified parking brake cable assembly if the cable is bent or damaged at the cable end. If no bending or damage exists, install a cable retainer on the cable end of the parking brake cable.

MFTA will instruct its Dealer body to initiate a safety recall campaign as soon as the parts and notification become available.

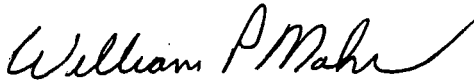
MFTA will inform NHTSA of the campaign schedule as soon as it has been determined.

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer or purchaser:

MFTA will provide NHTSA with a final copy of all related documents when they have been completed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,



William P. Mohr  
Director, Service Operations  
Mitsubishi Fuso Truck of America, Inc.  
Phone: (856) 467-3917 Fax: (856) 467-4665

- c: K. Idota (MFTBC)  
T. Kawai (MFTBC)  
H. Imamura (MFTA)

Summary Report of All Warranty Claims, Field or Service Reports,  
and Other Information, with their Date of Receipt

Warranty Service Claims (WSC)

<u>Date of Receipt</u>	<u>MFTA WSC Number</u>
01/19/96	D1050F685
02/13/96	D1156F232
03/07/96	D1050F745
02/04/97	D1006G066
05/23/97	FF106G102
06/25/97	D1136G710
10/13/97	FF106G268
03/08/98	D9144H253
07/21/98	FF106H559
09/23/98	D3028H795
10/19/98	D1050H959
02/01/99	FF106J027
02/15/99	FF106J046
07/30/99	D2003J149
08/11/99	D2003J153
10/26/99	FF106J182
01/03/00	FF104K001
01/26/00	FF106K017
01/24/01	D1012L010
01/30/01	D1029L040
04/20/01	D3045L026
07/11/01	D9193L005
07/24/01	D1056L079
02/11/02	FF106M015

Product Quality Reports (PQR)

<u>Date of Receipt</u>	<u>MFTA PQR Number</u>
N/A	N/A